

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 17-28, 32, and 33 are pending.

Claim 1 is amended to clarify the language in the claim. Claim 1 is also amended to specify that the image collection device transmits an image to the peripheral device and the communication link of the peripheral device is used for communicating the image to a remote location. Support for these amendments is found, for example, in Paragraphs 0061, 0069, and 0070

Claim 24 is amended to correct an error in the claim.

Claim 28 is amended, specifying that the player image data imported on a payout ticket is for use in a future user verification procedure. Support for this amendment is found, for example, in Paragraph 0118.

Claim 32 is new, specifying that “the peripheral device is selected from the group consisting of a player tracking device and a bill validation device.” Support for this claim is found, for example, in Paragraph 0014. Claim 33 is new, adding the step of “using the player image data to verify the user when the user presents the payout ticket for payment” to Claim 28. Support for this claim is found, for example, in Paragraph 0118.

The remaining claims are unchanged.

Claim Rejections- 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-12 and 17-28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DeBan et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,386,103 (DeBan) in view of Artino et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,328,208 (Artino).

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the outstanding rejection in view of the amendments and the following remarks. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Amended claim 1 recites, in part, a method of “collecting security data regarding activities occurring at or associated with an exterior and an interior of the gaming machine.” Collecting security data involves at least one image collection device being “configured or designed to transmit the at least one image to at least one peripheral device of the gaming machine.” (Claim 1). The peripheral device is “coupled to the at least one image collection device for automatic collection of the at least one image associated with accessing the interior of the gaming machine in response to interaction with the at least one peripheral device of the

gaming machine.” (Claim 1). The peripheral device may be, for example, “a player tracking device or bill validation device,” as recited in new dependent claim 32. (Paragraph 0014). The peripheral device is also “associated with a communication link for communicating the at least one image with the at least one peripheral device to a remote location.” (Claim 1).

In many older gaming machines, no communication link existed with the gaming controller. (Paragraph 0069). Providing a communication link to the gaming controller in such gaming machines may be time and cost prohibitive. (Paragraph 0069). Such older gaming machines may be upgraded with a peripheral device, where the peripheral device is associated with a communication link. (Paragraph 0069). With a peripheral device associated with a communication link and the image collection device configured to designed to transmit an image to the peripheral device (Claim 1), the image collection device can use the peripheral device’s communication link. This makes it possible to upgrade older systems not only with a peripheral device, but also with the security collecting data features recited in Claim 1.

DeBan discloses an identification and verification system which includes a card having stored thereon human facial projection characters. (Abstract). DeBan, however, does not disclose at least one image collection device being “configured or designed to transmit the at least one image to at least one peripheral device of the gaming machine” and that the “peripheral device is associated with a communication link.” (Claim 1). In DeBan, the video camera (36) in the ATM (12) is connected to an interface (74). (Figure 1). A communication module (79) associated with the ATM (12) provides a communication link with the teller station (14) and the CPU (26). (Figure 2). Thus, DeBan does not disclose a peripheral device as recited in Claim 1.

Artino fails to cure the deficiencies of DeBan with respect to the above quoted features, regardless of whether Artino is considered alone or in combination with DeBan. Artino discloses a secure depository system. (Abstract). Page 3 of the Office Action equates a coin depositor in Artino with a peripheral device. There is no coin depositor disclosed in Artino, and the Office Action appears to equate a coin depositor with the depository door (12) of the after hours depository (10). (Figure 1). The depository door in Artino, however, does not have the characteristics of the peripheral device as recited in Claim 1. The depository door in Artino is not a peripheral device associated with a communication link as recited in Claim 1. The depository door is only a door that provides access to the depository, and is not associated with a

communication link. (Col. 5, lines 53-57). Furthermore, there are no other features in Artino that have the characteristics of a peripheral device as recited in Claim 1.

Thus, as explained above, DeBan and Artino, considered alone or in combination, fail to disclose a peripheral device as recited in Claim 1. Claim 1, as presently amended, is therefore not obvious in view of DeBan and Artino. Claims 21 and 24 recite a peripheral device similar to the peripheral device recited in Claim 1. Claims 21 and 24 are therefore also not obvious in view of DeBan and Artino.

Dependent claims 2-12, 17-20, 22, 23, and 25-27 incorporate the features of the independent claims on which the dependent claims are based. Therefore, the dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as Claims 1, 21, and 24.

As amended Claim 28 recites a method of authorizing payout to a user using a gaming machine. In this method, after “confirming that the first facial image information matches the second facial image information,” the player image data is imported on a payout ticket for the user. (Claim 28). The player image data is “for use in a future user verification procedure.” (Claim 28). For example, when the player wishes to utilize or cash the ticket in, the image data on the payout ticket is verified to ensure the payout ticket was issued to the player attempting to utilize or cash the ticket in, as recited in part in new dependent claim 33. (Paragraph 0118).

Artino discloses that a transaction record or receipt may be provided to a customer. (Col. 17, lines 5-16). The transaction records or receipts do include customer identifying data, such as a customer number. (Col. 17, lines 12-14). This customer identifying data, however, is not used in “a future user verification procedure” as recited in Claim 28. The customer identifying data on the transaction receipt only provides information to the customer regarding the transaction that was performed. (Col. 17, lines 5-47).

DeBan fails to cure the deficiencies of Artino with respect to the above quoted features, regardless of whether DeBan is considered alone or in combination with Artino. DeBan discloses a receipt printer for printing deposit or withdrawal receipts to a customer. (Col. 3, lines 29-34). DeBan makes no mention of the information included on a receipt, much less including “player image data for use in a future user verification procedure” on such a receipt. (Claim 28).

Thus, as explained above, DeBan and Artino, considered alone or in combination, fail to disclose “importing player image data for use in a future user verification procedure on a payout

ticket for the user.” (Claim 28). Claim 28, as presently amended, is therefore not obvious in view of DeBan and Artino.

Conclusion

The claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, allowance of the claims at the earliest possible date is requested.

If prosecution of this application can be assisted by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorneys at (510) 663-1100.

Applicants do not believe that any additional fees are required to facilitate the filing of this Amendment. However, if it is determined that such fees are due, please charge such additional fees to Deposit Account No. 504480 (Order No. IGT1P496D1).

Respectfully submitted,
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